## **ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT**

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF UTAH

CONFIRMATION HEARING

IN RE: EASY STREET
HOLDING, LLC

Jointly Administered
with Cases 09-29907
and 09-29908

Chapter 11

Honorable R. Kimball
Mosier

June 25, 2010 \* 10:04 a.m.

Location: United States Bankruptcy Court 350 South Main Street Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording, transcript produced by certified transcriber/court reporter: Jennifer E. Garner, RPR Notary Public in and for the State of Utah

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|                            | I N D E        | <u>X</u>  |                 |       |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
|                            | <u>Direc</u> t | Cross     | <u>Redirect</u> | Recro |
| <u>Witnesses</u> :         |                |           |                 |       |
| <u>Paul Throndson</u>      |                |           |                 |       |
| Proffer by Mr. Blumenthal: | 51             |           |                 |       |
| By Mr. Boley:              |                | 56        |                 |       |
| <u>Duncan Robertson</u>    |                |           |                 |       |
| By Mr. Wilson:             |                | 70<br>114 |                 |       |
| By Mr. Hofmann:            |                | 77<br>103 |                 |       |
| <u>William Shoaf</u>       |                |           |                 |       |
| By Mr. Blumenthal          | 142            |           |                 |       |
|                            |                |           |                 |       |
|                            |                |           |                 |       |
|                            |                |           |                 |       |
|                            |                |           |                 |       |
|                            |                |           |                 |       |
|                            |                |           |                 |       |
|                            |                |           |                 |       |
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|                            |                |           |                 |       |

## PROCEEDINGS

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THE BAILIFF: Please be seated. This is in the matter of Easy Street Holding, LLC.

THE COURT: Will counsel please note their appearances.

MR. CANNON: Your Honor. Kenneth Cannon of Durham, Jones & Pinegar and Michael Blumenthal of Crowell & Moring appearing on behalf of the Easy Street Partners, debtor in possession, and one of the plan proponents.

> Good morning, your Honor. MR. BLUMENTHAL:

MS. JARVIS: Your Honor, Annette Jarvis of Dorsey & Whitney and Rich Havel of Sidley Austin for WestLB, also one of the plan proponents.

MR. JENKINS: Your Honor, Lon Jenkins and Jeffery Shields on behalf of the unsecured creditors committee.

Good morning, your Honor. MR. WILSON: Kim Wilson appearing for David Wickline, a claimant, and Alchemy Ventures Trust, LLC, which has, as a member and manager, lodged an objection on behalf of Cloud 9 Resorts-Sky Lodge Development, LLC and Cloud 9 Resorts-Sky Lodge Management, LLC, claimants.

MR. BOLEY: Your Honor, Matthew Boley of

1 the law firm Parsons, Kinghorn, Harris appearing on 2 behalf of Park City I, LLC, who have objected to the 3 confirmation. 4 MS. MAUDSLEY: Your Honor, Adelaide 5 Maudsley of Chapman and Cutler on behalf of Bay 6 North. 7 MR. KUHN: Peter Kuhn for the United 8 States Trustee. 9 Good morning, your Honor. MR. JOHNSON: 10 Michael Johnson of Ray, Quinney & Nebeker on behalf 11 of Jacobsen National Group. 12 MR. JEFFERY L. SHIELDS: Good morning, 13 your Honor. Jeffery L. Shields -- the other Jeff 14 Shields -- representing Gunthers, Inc., who is a 15 subcontractor to Jacobsen. 16 MR. WRONA: Good morning, your Honor. Joe 17 Wrona, Wrona Law. 18 MR. GORDON: Corbin B. Gordon with Corbin 19 B. Gordon, PC, special counsel for Easy Street 20 Partners. 21 MR. PAYNE: Doug Payne of Fabian and 22 Clendenin on behalf of Gateway Center. 23 THE COURT: Mr. Cannon, there are several 24 matters on the Court's calendar this morning. The 25 way that they've been placed on the Court's calendar

1 has no particular significance. You may take the 2 matters in the order you believe appropriate. 3 MR. CANNON: Your Honor, I think we would 4 propose to proceed with the confirmation. 5 THE COURT: All right. 6 MR. BLUMENTHAL: May I approach, your 7 Honor? 8 THE COURT: You may. 9 Your Honor, we're here on MR. BLUMENTHAL: 10 the hearing to confirm the joint plan proposed by 11 Easy Street Partners and WestLB. To use an 12 expression in a Beatles' song, it's been a long and 13 winding road, but we're here. Easy Street, with 14 Mr. Shoaf at the forefront, has continuously and 15 tenaciously pursued reorganization with the principal 16 goal to pay creditors in full, maintain and maximize 17 the value of the Sky Lodge, keep and preserve jobs 18 for employees, maintain the project for the benefit 19 of its homeowners who already bought units at the Sky 20 Lodge -- 113 homeowners -- and maintain and maximize 21 value for the various constituencies in this case, as 22 well as maintain a -- one of the leading hotels in 23 this community, which will be a benefit to the Park 24 City resort community at large.

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Street Partners back in January is -- and compared to the plan that was -- the joint plan that's been recently filed is -- basically the same plan, your Honor, with the major exception that the plan funder is now WestlB, our senior lender, who's also the Class 1 creditor.

Mr. Shoaf will testify, your Honor, that he met with over 60 potential plan funders, investors concerning virtually every iteration of an investment to get to confirmation and exit this bankruptcy. He has always maintained transparency with WestLB, the committee, Jacobsen, and all other creditors and constituents in this case who have asked for information.

As your Honor is aware, the joint plan that's before you today was filed on June 16th. The treatment of literally all classes, with minor exceptions, but in particular the voting classes are identical. Obviously the treatment of WestLB has changed. However, they've voted in favor of the plan and are the plan proponent.

The general unsecured Class 4 creditors have identical treatment. As you'll hear a bit perhaps from Mr. Havel and Mr. Jenkins, there is -- there is some issues that they're trying to iron out.

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The debtor -- in connection with the reply -- I wouldn't call it an objection, but a reply filed by the committee.

The Class 2 creditors, which is Jacobsen as well as Gunthers, who has voted in the class, identical treatment. They're taking 1,330,000 to satisfy a claim. There's been a declaration filed by Mr. Kirkham who's the principal of Jacobsen that their actual claim is approximately 1,750,000. They're taking 1,330,000, assuming we confirm here today.

With regard to Gunthers, who initially voted not to accept the plan and filed -- I'll call it a limited objection -- they have now agreed to consent to the plan, change their vote to an acceptance and withdraw their objection. Counsel for Gunthers would like to, with Mr. Cannon, who worked this out, announce that on the record at the outset of the hearing so he doesn't need to stay here all day. And I would ask the Court to allow them to do that in a moment.

The other secured class, which is a catchall class, Class 3, the only creditor in that class, which is a nonvoting class, is Wells Fargo. There's a financing lease for two vans that's owned

by Easy Street Partners. That is not impaired.

Payments are current. It's going to be continued to pay -- be paid under the plan.

The homeowners who are in Class 5, with respect to them, again, identical treatment as was the case in the original iterations of the plan that started in January and finally filed under the joint plan June 16th where -- when the Jacobs -- I'll call it the Class 2 claims are satisfied, which occurs on the effective date, the liens that were filed are all removed and released and -- and I'll get to a ballot certification in a moment. But every Class 5 creditor who voted, voted to accept the plan. In fact, among the classes that have a right to vote, only one creditor holding a \$4,000 claim voted to reject. Everyone else has accepted the plan, your Honor.

The Class 7, which is the equity, which is Mezzanine -- Easy Street Mezzanine -- it used to be Class 6. It's now Class 7. However, their treatment, likewise, is identical. Easy Street Mezzanine, although insider votes don't count for purposes of confirmation, actually voted to accept the plan.

In any event, being that they're receiving

nothing under the plan, and you'll hear testimony that there is no equity at -- beyond -- flow-up beyond Easy Street Partners, they would be deemed to reject the plan, and we'll -- the evidence will reflect that they should be crammed down in any event.

The one class that did change was the Class 6, which are the two claims of Cloud 9 Resorts SL Management, LLC and Cloud 9 Resorts Development, LLC. It was never evident that they were going to receive anything. However, under the WestLB sponsored plan, WestLB has the right -- it's been briefed, your Honor. We'll address that during the course of this hearing -- has invoked the subordination agreement which the bankruptcy courts generally enforce. They are receiving nothing and are deemed to reject the plan and really don't have a right to vote in this -- in this case.

Before I go on -- that's sort of the summary of the various classes -- I'd like for Gunther's counsel and Mr. Cannon to address the Court with regard to the settlement resolving the Gunther claim.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. CANNON: Your Honor, this is a -- it's

a little bit of a funny issue. Class 2 is classified as Jacobsen. Jacobsen is Jacobsen National Group. Jacobsen was the general contractor on the construction and development of -- construction of the Sky Lodge facility and associated buildings and has a subcontractor. Jacobsen filed a mechanic's lien and Gunther also filed a mechanic's lien.

Jacobsen worked out with the subcontractors distribution of the million -- million three-three under the plan that will be distributed to it. It has worked out agreements with all of its subcontractors, including Gunthers, as to what portions of that they will all receive.

Gunthers filed an objection basically saying they should have been a part of this class or separately classified; they should have been entitled to vote. Their claim is in there. It's just really under Jacobsen's now, and they've lodged a rejecting ballot.

The agreement of the parties is that Gunthers has agreed that if the plan proponents make clear on the record what I'm going to do momentarily, make two things clear on the record, that it would withdraw its objections and either withdraw its negative vote or change its negative vote to an

accepting vote.

Those two things are, first, that the settlement of these mechanic's lien claims, as set forth in the plan under -- under Class 2 treatment, applies only to this plan and that there is no prejudice to the rights of Gunthers, or for that matter Jacobsen or other subcontractors, if this plan is not confirmed or becomes effective -- or -- or doesn't become effective or they don't get paid; that, in other words, they are waiving no rights other than under this plan. The discounted treatment in this plan applies only to it. All issues are open if this plan does not go forward.

The second understanding is that the releases of the mechanic's liens and the claims secured by those liens are not released until they receive a distribution. In other words, it can -- it's a contemporaneous exchange. They're paid, they release. That's exactly the intent of the parties -- of the plan proponents. Frankly, it was the intent of the plan proponents that no one waives any rights other than with respect to the plan.

Anyway, so my understanding at least, your Honor, is with -- and those two statements, the plan proponents are in agreement, the debtor certainly

1 takes this position it is their intent. And now 2 having stated on the record, I hope that Gunthers, 3 with whatever clarification they want to make, would 4 withdraw their objection. 5 THE COURT: So the settlement of the 6 Class 2 claims would be effective under the plan --7 MR. CANNON: Yes. 8 THE COURT: -- but not outside the plan? 9 MR. CANNON: That's correct, your Honor. 10 THE COURT: And the second point is that 11 the plan provides for the release of liens, but it's 12 not the plan or the order that would release the 13 liens, it would be the payment of the liens? 14 MR. CANNON: That's correct, pursuant to 15 the plan. 16 THE COURT: All right. 17 MR. JEFFERY L. SHIELDS: Thank you, your 18 I think Mr. Cannon has accurately stated it. 19 Just so the Court understands, the reason we believe 20 Gunther has a direct claim, even though we don't have 21 a contract with the debtor, is that we did perform 22 work on property of the debtor. Unlike other 23 subcontractors of Jacobsen, my client actually pursued a mechanic's lien action pre-petition against 24

both property of the estate and the fractional

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interests that were sold to third parties.

This is a practical solution. We believe we have the right to be separately classified, separately voted, separately paid. But as a practical matter, we have an agreement with Gunthers on a discounted -- excuse me, agreement with Jacobsen that we will accept a discounted amount.

We do withdraw our objection to the plan. We do vote in favor of the plan based on the representations made by Mr. Cannon. I think it is a good practical solution. But in the event this plan doesn't get confirmed or is not effective or we don't get paid, then we don't want this to be a waiver of our rights in any future matters before this Court.

Hopefully we won't be here again. We'll be paid and out of the hair of the debtor. That is our -- that is our deal and it is a practical solution that we've negotiated with Mr. Cannon and Jacobsen.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

MR. BLUMENTHAL: In any event, under the plan, WestLB is funding on the effective date approximately three million dollars to pay the Jacobsen/Gunthers claim at the discounted amount of 1,330,000. The sixty percent -- the unsecured

creditors who have elected, take 60 cents on the dollar. During the voting process, your Honor, on the ballots that were approved by your Honor before -- at the time the disclosure statement was approved, unsecured creditors were given an option of those who voted to elect either to take 60 cents on the dollar on the effective date or receive 100 cents on the dollar in equal quarterly payments over approximately three years.

The administration claims, which will aggregate approximately a million dollars by the time we roll into the closing, likewise will be paid with the funding by WestLB.

There is a priority claim from the -- the Utah State sales tax, I believe, for 2008 that's somewhere between 185 and \$200,000. When that gets resolved, that likewise will be paid.

And the pending payables, which are basically 30-day payables, your Honor, which as of today are approximately 188,000, will be paid in the ordinary course as they flow through in the ordinary business operations of the Sky Lodge.

Additionally, WestLB is funding a million five as additional working capital to the reorganized debtor, which is -- the name of which is going to be

| 1  | Heber Avenue, LLC, which is an affiliate of WestLB.  |
|----|--|
| 2  | Therefore, with the sole exception of                |
| 3  | Class 6, which is subordinated contractually, every  |
| 4  | creditor is treated identically, and in some         |
| 5  | instances somewhat better, from the funding by       |
| 6  | WestLB.  |
| 7  | Your Honor, this morning we filed a ballot           |
| 8  | certification. The ballots, which I signed the       |
| 9  | ballots under the voting procedures were sent to my  |
| 10 | attention in my office, and as of the close of the   |
| 11 | voting deadline, which was June 17th, I, along with  |
| 12 | my paralegal, looked at the ballots, counted them up |
| 13 | and the ballot report has been filed.                |
| 14 | THE COURT: Was that filed electronically,            |
| 15 | do you know?   |
| 16 | MR. BLUMENTHAL: Your Honor, if you                   |
| 17 | haven't seen it, I can hand one to you.              |
| 18 | THE COURT: All right. It doesn't appear              |
| 19 | to be on the docket, so thank you.                   |
| 20 | MR. WILSON: Excuse me, Mr. Blumenthal.               |
| 21 | THE COURT: It has been filed. It was                 |
| 22 | docketed as an affidavit.                            |
| 23 | MR. BLUMENTHAL: It's a declaration, your             |
| 24 | Honor.   |
| 25 | THE COURT: Right. But that's so it                   |
|    |  |

has been filed.

MR. BLUMENTHAL: Right. And as you'll note, the -- now that Gunthers has changed their vote, the summary page summarizes it. And then behind the summary page I have the results in each of the classes. WestLB Class 1 voted to accept. That's a hundred percent number and amount.

Now, in Class 2, the two -- which was footnoted that based upon the expected stipulation which was announced, Gunthers would change their vote to yes. So there are now two yes votes, the only two creditors in Class 2, which is a hundred percent number and amount.

Class 4, which are the general unsecured creditors, the vote was 24 to 1, and the amounts were 99.2 percent in favor, .7 percent rejecting. So that class has accepted.

The insider votes, which don't count, your Honor, in Class 4, I separately broke out the insider votes from Class 4 on their general unsecured claims. Even though they don't count for confirmation, the vote was three to one in favor. The amounts were 75 percent in favor, 25 percent -- I'm sorry. The amount was 98.8 percent in favor, 1.1 percent against.

The only -- then in Class 5, which were the homeowners, all of the homeowners that voted for the plan voted in favor of the plan -- 35 of them.

Class 7, as I indicated earlier, voted to accept.

And in Class 6, we had -- although they're deemed to reject the plan, what occurred and is reflected on the actual summary of Class 6 is that there were two votes cast for each of Cloud 9 Resorts SL Management and Cloud 9 SL Development. And as your Honor is probably aware, that entity is owned 50 percent by Mr. Shoaf's entity, Cloud 9 Resorts, and 50 percent by Mr. Wickline's entity, also -- Alchemy Ventures. So the Wickline voted no. Shoaf voted yes. We'll argue that. I have the dates of when the ballots were cast, but they're deemed to reject. In any event, I don't think they get to vote, but I just wanted to disclose how the voting went.

Later on in this case we will argue the issues regarding Class 6, which we believe should be -- are contractually subordinated under this plan in light of the fact that WestLB is not getting paid in full. In fact, they have to come up with another four and a half million dollars to fund this plan.

subordination issue.

I will at some point in this hearing allow Mr. Havel to -- well, it's not for me to allow, but Mr. Havel will address the Court on the contractual

In sum, however, we now only have one person voting against the plan. That's Mr. Wickline's entities, who we think shouldn't vote. Every other creditor in this case -- I'm sorry, except for the one \$4,000 unsecured creditor -- has voted overwhelmingly to accept the plan.

And just to put it in perspective, we're going to bring Mr. Throndsen back for some very brief testimony, but as your Honor is aware, there's been a valuation set for Easy Street Partners at 20.6 million. The claims as they add up before they're settled, so to speak, under the plan aggregate in excess of 22 million without regard to the Cloud 9 SL Management and Development claims.

WestLB filed in a declaration of Duncan Robertson -- is it Robertson? I want to get his name correct on the record -- reflecting that their actual claim is 17.9 million. That would calculate all of the attorney's fees and default rate, interest, and other charges that they would be entitled to, absent a settlement under the plan; the declaration of

Richard Kirkham, who's Mr. Jacobsen -- who's the principal of Jacobsen, filed a declaration that their claim is slightly in excess of a million 750; the unsecured creditors will introduce a spreadsheet on their claims for approximately \$980,000.

As I said, the administration claims were approximately a million, priority claims 200,000, and the payables as of today, administration claims, 188,000. That adds up to in excess of 22 million. Therefore, we think it's sort of an easy conclusion that equity Class 7 should get nothing and that the subordination agreement for Class 6 under this plan should be enforced, particularly in light of WestlB contributing an additional four and a half million to make this plan work.

We believe the plan addresses and complies with all of the requirements of 1129, is in the best interest of this estate. We'll get into that at closing argument. The evidence will address each of those prongs. We've briefed it. We apologize for getting the brief in late last night. It's been our experience -- at least my experience -- that your Honor actually reads everything that's filed, and I hope we got it to you early -- or late enough not -- so you could read it this morning, but we believe it

addresses all the elements.

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Now, the committee reply is somewhat unusual. I think maybe the way to handle that is -and at the end of the evidence we can argue that, but what they're really asserting is that Class 4 creditors should be allowed to change their election. The debtor's position is, we're somewhat agnostic on However, we feel strongly that creditors who didn't vote should not be allowed to now come in and reelect options. That, frankly, is, I think -- you know, it shouldn't be open. Because the -- everyone was on notice. It's very clear. The voting instructions were that if you didn't vote, you took the option that paid you a hundred cents on the dollar in quarterly installments over time. will be receiving a hundred cents nevertheless. It's not for us to get into the minds of people who have never shown up in this court and didn't vote.

So irrespective of what Mr. Havel and Mr. Jenkins work out, hopefully throughout the course of this hearing, the debtor believes that they should not actually be allowed. Those who have not voted should not be allowed to now come back in after the fact and make elections. It's sort of like in our system in America if -- you know, I always tell my

1 kids who are now voters that if you don't vote for 2 president, you can't complain about what the 3 president does. 4 THE COURT: Well, are we talking about 5 hypotheticals or are there creditors who haven't 6 voted saying they want to vote? 7 MR. BLUMENTHAL: No one has come in that 8 hasn't voted --9 THE COURT: Okay. 10 MR. BLUMENTHAL: -- that says they want to 11 re-elect. Nothing's been filed. 12 THE COURT: All right. 13 MR. BLUMENTHAL: Now, the only objections 14 that -- separate and apart from that issue -- I don't 15 really consider that an objection -- are from 16 basically two partners -- two partners up at the 17 Holdings level. When you really cut through the 45 18 pages of the two objections, they're really disputes 19 among partners at the Easy Street Partner level. As 20 your Honor is aware, the corporate structure here is 21 -- I'm sorry, let me correct that. Thank you. It's 22 really a Partner dispute at the Easy Street Holding's 23 level. 24 As your Honor remembers, the debtor before 25 you today, which is the owner of the Sky Lodge

operating company, Easy Street Partners, owned a hundred percent by Easy Street Mezzanine, owned a hundred percent by Easy Street Holdings. The equity security holders have either personally or through their entities, their equity interest at the Easy Street Holdings level. That is not before you today.

Those cases are still pending before your Honor.

There are adversary proceedings where they're named plaintiffs that will go forward before your Honor after today.

And, you know, it's our position that these people are -- or persons, as defined under the code -- are totally out of the money, really have no standing in here. And we, frankly, question their motivation in filing these objections today.

Their disputes, their disputes among partners don't belong -- at the Holdings level -- do not belong in this courtroom before your Honor. If this plan, for whatever reason, fails today, creditors who are clearly creditors of Easy Street Partners will receive nothing. You'll hear that testimony later. WestLB will receive a fraction of their claim.

As we proceed, your Honor, we -- what -- what I'd like to do now is talk about proceeding

through this hearing. We would put on for very brief testimony Paul Throndsen, who was our appraiser, and then we would put on Bill Shoaf, who's the co-manager of Easy Street Partners. Duncan Robertson filed a declaration on behalf of WestlB. Whether you accept that declaration or need his testimony is something that is up to your Honor.

I just -- the order that's been previously entered is in the exhibit book. It's -- it's not necessarily an exhibit. It's an order of this Court on valuation of the 20.6 million.

Mr. Throndsen will testify briefly on two areas which would be liquidation value, if we had -- if we converted to a seven and had to do a quick sale of his property, as well as the -- some brief testimony which is contained in his supplemental appraisal on feasibility.

All of this will reflect that the confirmation requirements of 1129(a) have been complied with and that the cram-down provisions under 1129(b) with respect to Classes 6 and 7 are clearly manifest and proven before your Honor.

The -- again, the confirmation brief addresses all of this. We will address all the issues that his Honor wants to hear more about at

closing or throughout this case.

I would ask you how you would like to proceed. I assume other people will have a few comments before we actually proceed, but I don't know if it's your wish to -- for us to make proffers of their testimony and they can be cross-examined if necessary, or whether you'll require them to actually take the witness stand and testify.

THE COURT: "They" being individuals other than --

MR. BLUMENTHAL: Mr. Throndsen and Mr. Shoaf and Duncan Robertson. Being -- instead of a proffer, if you'd accept the declaration.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, for Mr. Robertson. Because we have a declaration with exhibits, we would suggest that his direct testimony could be in the form of submitting the declaration, but we would permit him to do cross if any wish to cross-examine him.

THE COURT: All right. Well, why don't we address that as we move forward and see if there are objections to the Court accepting the proffers.

Mr. Havel, if you wish to make a statement before we begin, and then I'll hear from the objecting parties perhaps before we begin.

MR. HAVEL: Yes, your Honor.

My series of comments is really going to be much more of a general overview of the case in the sense of what are the issues right now and where does this case go and the importance of the plan that's before you today.

As has been emphasized, and can be and should be reemphasized again, the only objecting parties at this point are people who have really controversies up at a higher level in the corporate structure, and their complaints are really about the alleged mismanagement or non-management either by Mr. Shoaf or by Mr. Wickline or both. There are serious questions of whether they are creditors at all, and certainly the only attenuated potential creditor role is that Mr. Wickline seems to be a member of Skyline Management and Skyline Development, but that management is shared with Mr. Shoaf. So there's really no clear sense that Mr. Wickline even represents that interest.

This is a case where the parties have had a substantial amount of time and a substantial amount of opportunities to explore what kind of plan is going to work here, as -- although we're working in the context of a plan that's been on file since

January and February, we also know from the series of extensions and delays and plan supplement filings, it's one where the debtor has sought out more than one plan funder, there have been multiple discussions about structuring and alternative financing. This is a project that has been shopped from the investor side extremely carefully and has been monitored very carefully in operations during a very important session.

Really, the case started at the beginning of last ski season, September/October. It's gone through a ski season and is going to end hopefully in the summer where we have a small upscale season before we hit the fall when this hotel will again be dark or quiet for a substantial number of months before the next ski season arises. This is clearly a seasonal asset and it's one where the timing for its emergence from the bankruptcy is going to be very important.

It's a structured plan where not only has the elements been fully considered, but all the parties have made and are making substantial concessions. The WestLB debt restructure will be revealed to be one that's been carefully and extensively negotiated. It's been structured in a

way to ensure feasibility and promote a successful plan. Jacobsen and the mechanic's lienholders are taking a discount to get out of a case when they had substantial claims against their parties, which are also going to be released at this time. The creditors are either taking a note, although it's for -- it's a hundred percent if there's no post petition -- post confirmation interest. And they can take a 60 percent discount to reveal where creditors may see this, so that all of the components here are making sacrifices to make this plan work. And they're all in favor of doing it now.

Time is crucial for several, several reasons. The most important one is one that we, WestLB, have been concerned about for months and months. And that is that this debtor has a limited amount of cash available to operate. It started this case with over three million dollars of surplus cash on hand. It's been whittled down to clearly less than \$600,000 as of today. There are several accrued and unpaid professional fee claims that could cut into that even substantially over the next 30 days. If July and August aren't healthy enough, this hotel may not even stay open through the summer, based on the current cash availabilities.

Also, failure to confirm this plan and go effective immediately is going to force the owner of this property to lose the visages of the last part of the summer season to sell fractional units. If we can confirm this and go effective in mid or late July there will at least be an August and early September sale opportunity to improve the project's operations. Otherwise, we wait for the ski season.

example of the problem about the delay here is we were given in the plan structure and in the plan presentations with other funders that admin claims are going to be \$750,000, and we actually budgeted for that in part of our commitments. As Mr. Blumenthal's already said, he now thinks it may be as high as a million. We have a limited amount of capital that we can put into this company and no more. And a further delay and a further accrual of additional costs could itself destroy any future plan prospects and turn this into an insolvent administration.

So we feel a great sense of urgency both because of how much has been done and how far people have gone to make the plan work today and because the prospects of the alternative at this point are very

serious.

I will defer the discussion about the enforcement of the subordination agreement against the Class 6 claimants and the ability to classify them separately and treat them in the manner that we've had. So that the -- I have no other comments at this point, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

MR. JENKINS: Your Honor, Lon Jenkins for the unsecured creditors committee.

Just briefly, your Honor, the committee, as your Honor can tell from the pleadings we filed, is supportive of the plan. However, we did file a response, not an objection as such. The response really not going to the merits of the plan, but really to the issue of which, if any, unsecured creditors may have the opportunity to change their elections, not their votes.

I've had discussions both with Mr. Blumenthal and Mr. Havel this morning respecting that issue. I expect that during the course of the hearings today and during the break, we will conclude those discussions and reach some agreement as to really the scope of which creditors should or would be able to reelect their option one or option two

election.

In addition, your Honor, the plan, in essence, does embody a settlement of sorts of the unsecured creditors committee's litigation that was commenced against WestLB back in January. Under the terms of the plan, if the plan is confirmed, that lawsuit will be dismissed with prejudice.

In that regard, I do have with me in court today the chair of the committee, Mr. Craig Elliot.

And in support of the settlement, such as it is under the terms of the plan, I would like at some appropriate time to offer his testimony -- to proffer his testimony. And, of course, he is in the courtroom and would be available for any cross-examination. We would like, if possible, to take that part of the presentation this morning so that Mr. Elliot doesn't need to sit here all day and hear the proceedings. So we -- we do have that one additional item in addition to the individuals that Mr. Blumenthal indicated would either be proffered or presenting live testimony.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Wilson or Mr. Boley, do you wish to be heard before we proceed with evidence?

| 1  | MR. WILSON: Yes, your Honor. Thank you.              |
|----|--|
| 2  | I've personally found one tool to be                 |
| 3  | useful, and that's the ownership structures. Does    |
| 4  | the Court have that? I'm wondering if we may I'm     |
| 5  | happy to either mark it or disperse it, but I find   |
| 6  | that this is a wonderful time-saving tool as we      |
| 7  | discuss through the structure. May I suggest that we |
| 8  | either mark it or have it generally available to     |
| 9  | everybody? I believe that would be the one that's    |
| 10 | attached to the disclosure statement.                |
| 11 | MR. BLUMENTHAL: We don't mind it being               |
| 12 | marked as not necessarily as evidence, but           |
| 13 | THE COURT: Well, is it attached to the               |
| 14 | disclosure statement?                                |
| 15 | MR. WILSON: I hope so, your Honor. I                 |
| 16 | believe it is. It's it's certainly been before       |
| 17 | the Court. It's down in the pleading somewhere.      |
| 18 | THE COURT: Okay. Well, if you have a                 |
| 19 | copy and   |
| 20 | MR. WILSON: May I just mark it maybe W-1             |
| 21 | or something like that?                              |
| 22 | THE COURT: All right.                                |
| 23 | MR. BLUMENTHAL: Your Honor, it's just                |
| 24 | you asked the question; it's not attached to the     |
| 25 | disclosure statement, but we don't have a problem    |
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      with having it marked for whatever reason.
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                  THE COURT: Well, I guess -- clearly, it's
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      not evidence because we don't have any foundation.
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      But if it's instructional and helpful to the Court,
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      then --
6
                  MR. WILSON: I offer it for no other
7
      purpose, your Honor.
8
                 THE COURT: All right.
9
                  MR. BLUMENTHAL: We don't have a problem
10
      with that, your Honor.
11
                  THE COURT:
                              Okay.
12
                  MR. WILSON: It's going to -- I promise it
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      will save the sanity of a few of us by the end of the
14
      day.
15
                  THE COURT: As long as it's accurate,
16
      maybe.
17
                  MR. WILSON: I hope it is. And whoever
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      prepared it deserves something, some recognition.
19
                  May I present -- may I just hand that to
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      the Court?
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                  THE COURT:
                              Well, yes, you may.
22
                  MR. WILSON: All right. Thank you.
23
                  THE COURT: It has been marked.
24
                  Do you want to give me another copy that's
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      not -+
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1 MR. WILSON: No, I want to give you the 2 marked one. 3 THE COURT: Okay. 4 MR. WILSON: May I? 5 THE COURT: All right. 6 MR. WILSON: Thank you, your Honor. 7 I'm here -- thank you -- for objecting 8 parties, David Wickline and Cloud 9 Resorts-Sky Lodge 9 Development, LLC and Cloud 9 Resorts-Sky Lodge 10 Devel-- or, Management, LLC, who are scheduled 11 creditors. And I stand here as counsel for Alchemy 12 Ventures Trust, LLC who controls 50 percent of those 13 two entities, which I would like to identify as 14 Development and Management. 15 May I -- let me just take a moment, if I 16 may, by referring to this ownership structure. The 17 debtor, whose plan -- also joined in by WestLB -- is 18 Easy Street Partners, LLC, that I believe to be the 19 owner of the real estate -- the dirt -- which is the 20 hotel facility. It is a wholly-owned entity of Easy 21 Street Mezzanine, which is a wholly-owned entity of 22 Easy Street Holdings, LLC. Each of those two 23 entities are debtors before the Court, but not 24 proponents of the plan. 25 Easy Street Holdings, LLC is owned by --

there are really four ownership components. One is on the far right, Cloud 9 Resorts, LLC, which is controlled 100 percent by Mr. William Shoaf. That represents a 38.75 percent equity ownership of Holdings, which is the effective -- 38.75 percent ownership of the venture -- the Easy Street venture.

Next, to the left of that is a box

Next, to the left of that is a box representing ownership of an additional 38.75 percent that is owned by Alchemy Ventures Group, LLC. And that -- the member is Alchemy Ventures Trust, owned and controlled 100 percent by David Wickline. So that part of the structure represents two components of 38.75 percent interest.

Going to the left, there's Utah Coal and Lumber, ten percent owner of equity. And lastly, to the left of that, is Park City I, LLC, which is Mr. Boley's client, representing 12.5 percent ownership.

May I call the Court's attention then to the bottom of the box -- or the bottom of the exhibit where it says, "Sky Lodge Park City, Utah," and emanating on the right is an entity Cloud 9 Resorts-Sky Lodge Development, which is separately owned by Cloud 9 Resorts, which is owned by Mr. Shoaf. So that's 50 percent of the marbles. And

1 the other 50 percent is owned by Alchemy Ventures 2 Trust, controlled by Mr. David Wickline, not debtors. 3 That entity is not a debtor. It had a contract with 4 the debtor or debtors to perform certain services. 5 So not a debtor and -- but rather a claimant. 6 Development holds a scheduled claim, not 7 contested, not contingent, not disputed --8 THE COURT: Who holds a scheduled claim? 9 MR. WILSON: This is Development. 10 THE COURT: Okav. 11 MR. WILSON: And -- and if -- if everybody 12 will go with this, I think from -- from here on out, 13 I would like to identify that particular entity, 14 Cloud 9 Resorts-Sky Lodge Development, as just plain 15 old Development. Again, it holds a scheduled, not 16 disputed, not contingent claim of \$1,268,213. So as 17 I stand here, I stand here as a -- a rejecting 18 creditor of Development as to that claim. There is 19 an accepting ballot to that as well, apparently, from 20 the tabulation that was made. Mr. Wickline, through 21 his entity, which holds 50 percent of that claim --22 effective 50 percent -- has voted to reject 23 Mr. Shoaf, who holds the other 50 percent votes to 24 accept. 25 Are we okay so far?

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. WILSON: Good. Let's go just -- then I'm about through with this little -- this little experiment.

To the left then of -- of the bottom of this exhibit is another entity called Cloud 9

Resorts-Sky Lodge Management. The ownership of that and the control of that and the structure of it and its function is a mirror image of Development, and it holds an -- a scheduled, undisputed, not contingent, and not unliquidated claim of \$366,631.39. And ballots have been apparently cast voting to both accept and reject. Those two claim aggregate, \$1,634,844.

In the former plan that was amended and dressed up and submitted to the Court for confirmation today on a very, very short string, those claims formerly were to be paid, not subordinated. They were to be paid. The treatment was disparate from the other unsecured claims. But nonetheless, they were to be paid in full.

Then we had this little hurry-up experiment on -- on a brand-new plan with a -- with a joining plan proponent and -- and the treatment is radically different. And that is these claims are to

be subordinated, not paid a penny and, in fact, have been relegated to a new Class 6, which does not even contemplate that they would be allowed to vote and participate in the plan. I hope that lays a little background for this. In addition, Mr. Wickline holds a likewise claim of about \$4,600 unsecured claim in his own right.

The -- if I may refer just one more time to this organizational chart exhibit. This will be about my -- this is kind of my last one -- is if the Court would look at the top box, "Debtor: Easy Street Holding," it will see a line immediately above that to an entity called ABG-SL, LLC. In former times, that was the manager of Easy Street Holding, which, of course, made it the effective manager of the Easy Street venture. Ownership and control of ABG-SL, LLC was in two members: Alchemy Ventures Trust, owned 100 percent by David Wickline; Cloud 9 Resorts, owned 100 percent by William Shoaf, thereby making them each 50 percent members and 50 percent managers of that venture.

In August of 2009 Easy Street Holdings conducted a meeting and voted to discontinue the services or discharge the services of ABG-SL, LLC as manager. That effort was led by Mr. Shoaf. And when

ABG-SL, LLC was removed as manager, I believe the evidence will show that Mr. Shoaf, and perhaps others, substituted themselves personally as

managers. And at that point in time, Mr. Wickline

was effectively removed from management or

6 involvement. I believe the evidence will show that

7 there was no consultation with Mr. Wickline or his

interests with regard to the bankruptcy filing or any

management activities occurring after that time.

The -- and I'm just really almost through kind of outlining our -- our opening with regard to the -- the objection.

Mr. Shoaf has continued as manager, and is manager today, of, as I understand it, of the debtor who seeks confirmation today. So he has effectively moved forward without consultation of 38 and three-quarters percent of the equity of the venture throughout.

We will show to the Court through evidence and upon argument that Mr. Shoaf has, while participating in an effort to disenfranchise -- by participating in the formulation and filing of this plan -- to disenfranchise \$1,600,000 worth of legitimate claims of which he himself would participate in half, that the deal that he has cut is

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that he's going to get it -- he's going to get his half anyway through an employment contract and through an interesting provision with regard to assistance in the transferring of liquor licenses, which we submit have been misappropriated by him and is being used in this case for his personal gain, and that the compensation which is contemplated will be his personally under this new plan is \$720,000 in cold cash, plus an opportunity for some commissions and other things. So basically he gets his half of the -- of the development and management claims through the back door. And what we submit that boils down to is a plan that is not submitted in good faith. We'll have some -- the mechanism for disenfranchising that million-six is the subordination agreement issues raised by WestLB, and I'm sure there will be some legal discussion about that. I hope that has at least been practically helpful to the Court in framing the issues. you. Thank you. THE COURT: It has. MR. BLUMENTHAL: Your Honor, obviously

this is an opening statement; it's not evidence,

1 Mr. Wilson's not testifying, and I want you at the 2 end of the hearing to think if anything he said has 3 actually proven by evidence. 4 THE COURT: All right. 5 MR. WILSON: He doesn't ever buy anything 6 I say. 7 MR. BOLEY: Your Honor, Matthew Boley 8. appearing on behalf of Park City I, LLC. 9 It's been my experience that this Court 10 does read papers, and I think ours were in long 11 enough ago that you're probably familiar with our 12 objection. So let me summarize just a few key points 13 that might be helpful to the Court as it considers 14 the evidence today. 15 And I would start with the very words used 16 by the debtor's counsel as he started his opening 17 statement, which were this -- I wrote them down --18 "This is basically the same plan with a major 19 exception." 20 Therein lies the rub, your Honor. 21 not the same plan that was proposed months ago for 22 which there is an approved disclosure statement on 23 which creditors voted, voting closing the day after 24 this new plan was filed.

In this case, the major exception swallows

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the plan. And there are several problems, your Honor. One is that from my client's perspective, WestLB was the architect and the cause of the debtor's demise. Under the former plan, and as described in the disclosure statement, the creditor's committee on behalf of creditors and the estates were going to -- was going to pursue causes of action against WestLB. That is something that all creditors who got to vote on this plan had in mind when they voted on -- or chose not to vote on the plan. Now WestLB is receiving a release of any and all claims and a release of that litigation.

Conspicuously absent in the existing approved disclosure statement is any discussion of the kind of factors that this Court would want to see in a disclosure statement where claims of this nature are being settled, discussion of the Copexa factors. So the disclosure statement is wholly inadequate for the plan before the Court.

The way this has come up procedurally, the debtor and WestLB are putting the cart before the horse. They're asking the Court to approve a plan based on votes for a different plan and a disclosure statement for a different plan.

As just one illustration of this, your

1 Honor, I would point out that even the unsecured 2 creditors committee, although not objecting, have a 3 problem with the adequacy of the original disclosure 4 statement. And you notice that the committee's 5 objection is that those who made a certain election 6 or chose not to vote, knowing that that would be a 7 deemed election, had inadequate information to make 8 that election because their treatment under this new 9 plan is different and because the feasibility of this 10 plan, given the different dollar amounts that are 11 being contributed, are different. So even as to 12 those unsecured creditors who -- and I -- the 13 committee's in favor of the plan and wants now to 14 settle this litigation. So even as to them, the 15 original disclosure statement was not adequate to 16 address to them which election they should make. 17 Your Honor, I'll reserve the remainder of 18 my comments for closing. 19 THE COURT: Well, Mr. Boley, how is the 20 impact on your client under the old plan and the 21 amended plan different? 22 MR. BOLEY: The impact, your Honor, is 23 that under the old plan with litigation against 24 WestLB and with the possibility of success in that 25 litigation either disallowing or subordinating that

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claim, perhaps with an affirmative dollar recovery from WestLB, my client, although only a creditor and equity holder at the Holdings level, did have a possibility of some recovery.

Now, with that litigation settled without information or evidence that would satisfy the Copexa factors, my client is absolutely denied any -- any chance of recovery in this case.

THE COURT: But your client does understand the differences in the two plans and -with respect to the effect it has on your client?

> MR. BOLEY: The --

THE COURT: What I'm getting at, Mr. Boley, is one of the objections you raised was the notice requirements and that proper notice of this confirmation hearing and the plan before the Court today hasn't been given and that the Court can change -- otherwise order and find notice requirements sufficient.

So my question really goes to whether your client is prejudiced by the Court considering this plan or whether you're just saying technically they haven't done what they're supposed to do.

MR. BOLEY: I think both, your Honor. think it's clear they've technically not done what

| 1  | they're supposed to do. And although I and my        |
|----|--|
| 2  | partners at Parsons, Kinghorn, Harris consider       |
| 3  | ourselves to be quick studies, I don't know that we  |
| 4  | have yet figured out all the differences in how this |
| 5  | plan treats our client and how the old plan did.     |
| 6  | Personally, I don't know                             |
| 7  | THE COURT: Well, under this plan, it's               |
| 8  | pretty clear you don't get anything.                 |
| 9  | MR. BOLEY: That's certain. It's certain              |
| 10 | that this plan is much worse for my client.          |
| 11 | THE COURT: Okay. All right. Thank you.               |
| 12 | MR. BOLEY: Thank you, your Honor.                    |
| 13 | THE COURT: All right. Mr. Shoaf, I guess             |
| 14 | we're ready to proceed. I'm going to need to take a  |
| 15 | recess at 11:45 and then we can recommence at 1:15.  |
| 16 | MR. BLUMENTHAL: Okay. I'm sorry, you're              |
| 17 | going to break at eleven                             |
| 18 | THE COURT: Right. Break oh, no, I'm                  |
| 19 | going to   |
| 20 | MR. BLUMENTHAL: We would put                         |
| 21 | Mr. Throndsen on first so he doesn't have to stay    |
| 22 | here all day.  |
| 23 | THE COURT: All right. That would be                  |
| 24 | fine.  |
| 25 | Mr. Throndsen?                                       |
|    |  |

1 MR. BLUMENTHAL: And my question for 2 Mr. Throndsen is, would the Court entertain a proffer 3 of his testimony, which would be brief or would you 4 want him to actually testify? 5 THE COURT: Well, it would seem to make 6 sense to -- for -- just to speed this along, to 7 accept the proffer. Certainly parties can have an 8 opportunity to cross-examine. 9 So you -- why don't you go ahead and have 10 a seat for a minute, Mr. Throndsen, and we'll see 11 where we go. 12 MR. BLUMENTHAL: Your Honor, I would first 13 point to, in your exhibit book, to Exhibit 1-A. 14 know, it's not actually -- I don't think it's 15 actually -- it's an order of this Court dated 16 April 15th, which at an April 14th hearing valued the 17 assets of Easy Street Partners, the Sky Lodge, a 18 combination of the commercial and the residential 19 units, at 26.6 million. 20 I would ask -- I mean, technically it's an 21 order of the Court. It's part of the record. 22 hearing was done in connection with the valuation 23 hearing. We bifurcated that from a confirmation 24 hearing. I would just ask that it be marked, and I

think the Court can take judicial notice of its own

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